

20 November 2001 (1300-1600) DS
21 November 2001 (0830-1130) S
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U.S. AIR FORCE EMPLOYMENT

Mode: Directed Study/Seminar

Lesson No. 4-03-DS/S

1. Introduction. The mission of the USAF is to defend the United States and protect its interests through aerospace power. This lesson introduces the doctrine, roles and missions, organization, and capabilities and limitations that influence the Air Force's ability to execute its mission and provide support to Theater and Joint Force Commanders. Campaign planning involves tough decisions on allocation of any resource. Because aerospace resources are obviously finite, the planner must fully understand the concepts capabilities, and limitations for employing Air Force aerospace forces and integrating them with other combat arms.

2. Learning Objectives.

- a. Apply Air Force employment doctrine to aerospace power in joint operations.
- b. Analyze the roles and missions of the United States Air Force.
- c. Understand the Air Force organization for Warfighting.
- d. Evaluate the USAF's future force capability.

3. Student Requirements.

a. Tasks. After a brief FI introduction, the Air Force student will present information and lead discussion on: what the USAF holds true about employment of aerospace power, roles and missions, organization, and capabilities and limitations now and anticipated in the future. All students will be prepared to discuss the lesson's points to consider.

b. Required Readings.

(1) U.S. Air Force. America's Air Force Vision 2020, July 2000. Shaped by Joint Vision 2020, this document charts the course of the Air Force into the first quarter of the next century. It provides the strategic blueprint for how to

dominate air and space as a unique dimension of military power. This document is an excellent explanation of the current Air Force mindset. Consider this the roadmap for Air Force planning. (Student Issue)

(2) Air Force Basic Doctrine, Air Force Doctrine Document 1, September 1997. Read pp. 7 thru 9, 40 thru 72. Establishes general doctrinal guidance for the application of air and space forces in operations across the full range of military operations from global nuclear or conventional warfare to military operations other than war. (Student Issue)

(3) Organization and Employment of Aerospace Power, Air Force Doctrine Document 2, Chapter Three, 28 September 1998. Provides a guide to air force terminology, command and organizational concepts, and the framework for task organizing and presenting forces to the Joint Force Commander. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

c. Suggested Readings. Official U. S. Air Force Web Site at <http://www.af.mil/>. Scan the Library which contains Fact Sheets on Aircraft, Organization, Space, Weapons, and Special Interest Items.

4. Points to Consider.

a. What are the strategic advantages/disadvantages of aerospace power?

b. How can the JFC employ aerospace power to exploit enemy vulnerabilities?

c. The Air Force sees the gaining of aerospace control as a prerequisite to successful warfare on land and in the air. Does this mean it's required before ground operations begin?

d. How has aerospace power changed – WWII, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Kosovo?

e. What might this portend for the future?

5. Relationship to Professional Joint Education (PJE) Learning Areas.

- a. PJE LA 1.b. Readings
- b. PJE LA 1.c. Readings
- c. PJE LA 2.a. Readings
- d. PJE LA 2.b. Readings
- e. PJE LA 2.e. Objectives, Readings
- f. PJE LA 3.a. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider
- g. PJE LA 3.d. Objectives, Readings
- h. PJE LA 4.a. Objectives, Points to Consider
- i. PJE LA 4.b. Objectives, Points to Consider
- j. PJE LA 4.c. Points to Consider
- k. PJE LA 4.d. Readings
- l. PJE LA 4.e. Readings, Points to Consider
- m. PJE LA 4.g. Readings
- n. PJE LA 5.a. Readings, Objectives
- o. PJE LA 5.b. Readings, Objectives
- p. PJE LA 5.c. Readings, Objectives
- q. PJE LA 5.d. Readings, Objectives

6. Relationship to USAWC Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs), Enduring and Special Themes.

- a. ILOs: None
- b. Enduring Themes: Strategic Vision, Jointness
- c. Special Themes: Warfare in the Information Age